

UNION LEADERS DENY INTENT OF COERCION

Fifteen Chiefs Not to Strike to Control Railroads.

WAGES PROBLEM SEPARATE

Costs Must Come Down or Pay Go Up, Is Claim—Plumb Talks of Tripartite Scheme.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Leaders of the 15 organizations of railroad employes united today in a definite assertion that they "had no desire and have no means to impress the public by violence or threat" their proposal that the railroads be nationalized under "tripartite control."

Declaring that the requests of the men that living costs be reduced or their wages increased were aside from the question of the future disposition of the railroad problem, the labor leaders said that if President Wilson and congress could not meet this request the men would "have to try to find another solution."

While the labor leaders did not mention the president's address to congress yesterday, it was the general belief that their statement resulted from his warning to the labor world that strikes would only make present conditions worse, and that those who sought to employ threats or coercion were only "preparing their own destruction."

Two Propositions Separate.

"To prevent any misunderstanding as to the policy of the organized railroad employes," said the statement, "we unite in a definite assertion that we have no desire and have had no means to impress upon the public, by violence or threat, our proposal that the railroads be nationalized under tripartite control."

"Two distinctly separate considerations now confront the people, the wage requirements of the railroad employes and the Sims bill, embodying the rail way employes' plan for reorganization of the railroads."

"In the matter of wages we have submitted an eminently just proposition. We have said that if we are to continue to live as Americans should live, and are to care for our families as American families should be cared for, the profits must be restrained or our wages increased. Every fair-minded man and every intelligent housewife will recognize the reasonableness of this request. If congress and the president cannot meet this request, it is still a living question, and we shall have to try to find another solution."

No Purpose of Intimidation.

"This, however, bears in no way upon our sponsorship of the Sims bill. We do hold to our conviction that the railroad employes are in no mood to consign themselves finally to the autocratic control of financial dictators, but in proposing the elimination of capital and the tripartite directorate, we have the purpose of intimidation. We appeal to the statesmanship of America and to the common sense of American manhood and womanhood. We all are voters, and unless our democracy in government is a failure, our democracy in industry need not be."

"We believe in the tentative ability of American labor. What we ask is the Americanization of the railroads."

Greater Efficiency Expected.

The postoffice department, Mr. Plumb said, is the only great industry politically managed. "I do not want to be understood as saying that it is not efficiently managed. But I do believe the postoffice department would show a higher rate of efficiency if operated under the democratic principles of this bill."

Concerning the provision in the bill for purchase of railroad property, Representative Montague, Virginia, asked: "Would you pay for a double track built from the earnings of a single track?"

"No. All money put back in such property out of the payment by the public for service, belongs to the public and should not be included."

Success or failure of the plan, Plumb said, must be found in the 15 directors—10 of whom would be named by railway employes. Discussing the tremendous powers vested in the directorate, Plumb said there was no fear on the part of labor of creating a situation beyond control of the people.

Repression Not Contended.

"Have you ever found undue repression in the management of railroads to prevent the rise of employes to highest rank in the service?" Mr. Montague asked.

"No repression in certain kinds of initiative," the witness said. "Around the majority of highest priced railroad employes men who went from the bottom?"

"The ablest and perhaps the majority, yes. But they were not advanced by the employes, but by autocrats who felt they could get more out of human effort of others. Under our plan nothing but efficiency can hold any man's job in this organization."

Representative Dewalt, democrat, Pennsylvania, questioned the witness regarding the attitude of labor in event the Plumb bill failed of passage. "There has been a great deal of misrepresentation published," Plumb said. "It was stated that we would force a strike if this plan failed. Such a report was denied by Mr. Stone, Mr. Morrison and myself. The fact is, certain wage demands are pending and the question of a strike arose in connection with that. This is a different matter."

Point of Absurdity Reached.

Answering a question of Representative Dewalt, Plumb said that labor organizations had no intention of attempting to put the tripartite plan in effect in other industries unless the workers and public desired it. "Suppose majority of the farmers of the country concluded that this would be best for them, do you think they should have it?" Dewalt asked.

"If the farmers and the public want it, yes," the witness replied. "But I think that is an absurd proposition."

"Yes, that is what I am trying to get at," Mr. Dewalt said. "I am trying to reduce this thing to its point of absurdity."

"Well, you did that with the farmers," Plumb said.

"Then, my friend, where do you stop?" asked Mr. Dewalt.

"Where grant and privilege cease?"

"Isn't this leading to socialism?"

"Not at all, not at all," Plumb shouted, banging the table to emphasize the denial.

Plumb had not concluded when the committee recessed until Monday.

to the plan of the railroad brotherhoods for reorganization of the railroads in replying to an inquiry from brotherhood officials in Nebraska.

WAR VETERAN IS SUICIDE

Walla Walla Hero, Crazed by Shell-shock, Kills Himself.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Aug. 9.—Jack Raines, formerly of the 148th field artillery, an eastern Washington unit commanded by Colonel Paul H. Weyrauch, committed suicide here early today as a result of a nervous breakdown, caused by shell shock. His body was found hanging in the woodshed. He had been watched by his physician until midnight and was then thought to have quieted down and gone to sleep, but managed to slip out of the house later.

Raines went clear through the war with the 148th, but was sent home two months earlier than the regiment, owing to an attack of rheumatism.

BODIES MAY BE REMOVED

No French Law to Prevent Sending American Dead Home.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Apparently there is no French law prohibiting the removal of the bodies of American soldiers dead from French soil, "for a period of three years from January 1, 1919," the house foreign affairs committee had been informed that such a law existed, but Secretary Lansing wrote Chairman Porter today that while a bill along this line had been introduced in the French chamber of Deputies it had not yet been acted upon.

U. S. PRISONERS RETAINED

Germans Not to Be Released Until Treaty Is Ratified.

PARIS, Friday, Aug. 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—The disposition of prisoners held by American forces in France was discussed yesterday by the supreme council of the peace conference, and it was decided that it was impossible to release such prisoners until these powers have ratified the treaty with Germany.

It will be necessary therefore for the United States to co-operate with France in guarding the prisoners, and this will probably make it necessary to retain some American soldiers in France.

STORES SOLD TO BELGIUM

\$10,000,000 Worth of Army Goods Disposed Of.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Approximately \$10,000,000 worth of army food-stuffs stored at Antwerp and the Hook of Holland, has been sold to the Belgian government.

The money is payable in three years at 5 per cent interest.

ARGENTINA TO SAVE HERDS

President Asks Ban on Slaughter of Cows for Three Years.

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 9.—President Irigoyen has asked congress to prohibit for a period of three years the slaughter of cows and heifers for food.

Chile Frees German Crews.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 9.—The Chilean government has set free the crews of the German cruiser Dresden and the German raider Seeadler. The crews had been interned in this country for a long period, the men of the Dresden since 1915.

Captain Assigned to Fort Stevens.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Captain Julius C. Peterson, now with the recruiting service at Spokane, Wash., is ordered to report at Fort Stevens, Or., for duty with the coast defense of the Columbia.

La Grande Elks Leave Today.

LA GRANDE, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Colon R. Eberhard, state senator and

SHOPMEN ARE DIVIDED ON RETURN TO WORK

2000 at Boston to Go Back Pending Action by Hines.

250,000 STILL ARE OUT

Minneapolis and St. Paul Unions Refuse to Resume Labors—Railways Expect Improvement.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 9.—The 2000 shopmen in this city from the Baltimore & Ohio railroad tonight voted to return to work Monday pending action by Director-General Hines on the question of an increase in wages.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Aug. 9.—By virtually a unanimous vote the 4500 railway shopmen on strike here tonight voted to remain out. The vote was taken at a huge outdoor mass meeting. Only men with union cards were allowed to vote.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 9.—Striking shopmen in St. Paul voted this afternoon to remain out, according to a statement given out tonight at the close of a mass meeting. There are about 3000 on strike in St. Paul.

CHICAGO, Aug. 9.—Representatives of the Chicago district council of the Federated Railways Shopmen's union, which called a strike in August in defiance of the international officers of the shop crafts' unions, today dominated the conference at which some of the international officers sought to have the men return to work in obedience to the wishes of President Wilson. The council sent a telegram to the president stating that until some concession had been made the attitude of the men would be unchanged and they would remain on strike.

John D. Sanders, secretary of the council, asserted that notwithstanding the claims of the international officers and rail officials that not more than 40,000 men were on strike, no fewer than 250,000 men are out.

Secretary Sanders said telegrams from unions throughout the country indicated the men would continue on strike.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Officials of the railroad administration said tonight they expected a great improvement in the strike situation over Sunday with virtually a full force in all shops by Monday. Their reports indicated the men were returning to work gradually as the strike continued to be explained to them, though radical groups in some cities were refusing to go back without wage increases.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 9.—Striking railroad shopmen in this city and Birmingham, two of the most important traffic centers in the southeast, voted today not to go back to work until their demands were met.

TRINIDAD, Colo., Aug. 9.—The entire force of shopmen, machinists and boiler-makers at the local Colorado & Southern railroad shops, numbering 170 men, struck today following walk-out yesterday of 100 carmen. Shopmen employed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway here remained at work.

EVERETT, Wash., Aug. 9.—To prevent a general tie up of the line, members of the Great Northern wrecking crew here, who are out on a strike with the shopmen, last night responded to a call for help and cleared away a small freight wreck but refused to work further. There are no indications that the 500 men out here will return to work as requested by the president, although a meeting is to be held tomorrow to consider the matter.

La Grande Elks Leave Today.

LA GRANDE, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Colon R. Eberhard, state senator and

exalted ruler of La Grande lodge, No. 433, will head a party of Elk automobilists to leave here tomorrow morning to attend the state convention of Elks' lodges to be held at Klamath Falls. The attendance from Union and Wallawa counties, over which La Grande lodge has jurisdiction, will not be large.

AIRMEN MAY GO TO IDAHO

Plans Under Way for Patrol Visit to Lewiston.

LEWISTON, Ida., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—The forest fire aerial patrol sent out by the government will visit Lewiston, according to indications today, Congressman Burton L. French telegraphed from Washington that the war department has promised to arrange a visit if possible and has advised the airmen at Mather Field to see if plans to put Lewiston in the itinerary are feasible.

If orders go through he advises the Lewiston Commercial club, one plane will be here within 48 hours and a second, at present disabled, in 60 days, to cope with the forest fire situation.

Hens Net \$40 a Month.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Interest this week has been diverted from the question of how young a pullet may with becoming modesty begin to lay, to the question of the profits made from egg production. Mrs. C. T. Peek starts the ball rolling with a record of a profit of between \$40 and \$45 each month from 89 White Leghorns, and this is figured after feed and all expenses have been deducted.

State Hospital Starts Threshing.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Threshing of 250 acres of oats on the state hospital farm commenced here today. The crop is said to be one of the best ever produced in this section. It is expected that the yield will average 50 bushels to the acre. Cutting of hay on 250 acres has been completed and more than 300 tons already is in the barns of the institution. The hospital has only 36 acres of wheat to harvest.

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"Au Matin" (At Morning)..... Godard
Valse Brillante, Opus 34, No. 1..... Chopin
"Till We Meet Again"..... Whiting
"Dance of the Hours" (From "La Gioconda")..... Ponchielli

Coming Friday—"SECRET SERVICE"